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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

Research and Analysis Branch

R & A No. 1318

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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SPIES, AGENTS PROVOCATEURS, OR QUESTIONABLE CHARACTERS CONNECTED WITH ITALY

October 22, 1943

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Note

This report concerns Italians and non-Italians who have been connected with Italians or Italian affairs and about whom there appears to be sufficiant reliable data to justify the conclusion that they have been spies, agents provocateurs or questionable characters.

It is often difficult to make hard and just distinctions in identifying individuals as spies, agents provocateurs or questionable characters.

Information concerning such types may often be misleading (for example: an individual may be a "sponger" and nothing more; a sincere dissident, anti-Stalin communist may be represented as a spy by pro-Stalin communists).

Information concerning such types is often made up of allegations of varying quality, which cannot easily be checked. It would therefore be a safe precaution to view the evidence presented here in the light of such words as "It is reported".

The information on certain individuals discussed in this report - for instance, Ricciotti Garibaldi and Ermanno Menapace - is by no means exhaustive, and is presented at the present time primarily in order to direct attention to their names and character.

Additional information on the individuals or type of individuals discussed in this report will be presented when it is obtained and collated.

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Addis, Salvatore

It appears that about April 1931, the Italian government asked the Belgian government for the extradition of a certain Salvatore Addis, on the ground that he had been convicted in Italy on various counts, including fraud.

Before this request for extradition, Addis, a native of Sardinia, had been an employee of the Brussels branch of the Compagnie Italienne de Tourisme (C. I. T. — an agency of Fascist propaganda); he had married in Belgium under a false name; and he had assumed other names — such as Giacomo (or Gino) Racosta (or Raccosta) and Giovanni Verse — for a variety of purposes, including that of using a passport which had permitted him to go to France and Luxembourg where he had interested himself in "anti-Fascism."

Eventually left out in the cold and unemployed by his Fascist sponsors, who had apparently returned to Italy, Addis appealed in vain to them for help and then threatened to reveal "documents" in his possession that might incriminate his former employers. Fascist fear of his "revelations" apparently led to the request for his extradition.

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Andalò, Guelfo

Although he may not be an agent in the strict sense, he seems to be a questionable person, who was involved in a number of intrigues in Brazil about 1932-1933. In Brazil, he edited a Fascist weekly, Corriere degli Italiani. He went to Italy about 1933. In that year, he published an article in the Giornale di Genova. In that year, a Fascist paper of Brazil, /Fanfulla/, denounced him as an intriguer and as a spy of the Austrian consulate during the First World War.

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Ausilio

About 1931, Ausilio (the only name now available), a dissident anti-Stalin communist, returned to the Abruzzi region in Italy (probably from Belgium or France) and became a Fascist or pro-Fascist. He was denounced by pro-Stalin communists.

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Calvano, Francesco

In 1937, anti-Fascists from Italy and from the Ticino, who were at Berne, warned Italian speaking workers' circles against a certain Francesco Calvano of Mesagne, an Italian town in the province of Brindisi, a self-styled anti-Fascist and refugee, who had lived for quite a while at Bellinzona and Berne, and had gone to Italy several times on a regular passport. About May 1937, he returned to Berne where he told an unlikely story about his having escaped from the Italian prison at Pallanza. About June 1937, he was at Mulhouse.

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Coratelli, Mario

In 1937, anti-Fascists in France were warned by the Grenoble branch of the Lega Italiana dei Diritti dell'Uomo (Italian League of the Rights of Man, commonly referred to L.I.D.U. or Lidu, an anti-Fascist organization in France) against a certain Mario Coratelli, born at Bari (Italy), a deserter from the Italian army, who, by exploiting his position as a deserter, had extorted and received favors from anti-Fascists at Grenoble. He had gone to Spain (probably in 1936), insinuating himself among the volunteers on the Loyalist side, but he was soon sent back to France by the Spanish republican authorities because of his suspicious conduct and unwillingness to fight. In 1937, he was said to be about 23 years old, dark, and with regular features.

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Corguil, Joseph

In 1936, anti-Fascists in France were warned against this man who said he had been expelled from France and was on his way to Spain. He had documents bearing the stamp of an Electrical Union in Paris and of other labor organizations.

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Del Re, Carlo

Carlo Del Re was an effective and dangerous Fascist spy and agent provocateur, who appears to have been chiefly responsible for the arrest, in October-November 1930, of about twenty-five anti-Fascists, among whom were two anti-Fascists of the Giustizia e Liberta movement, namely, Ernesto Rossi and Riccardo Bauer who, in 1931, were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment by the Fascist Special Tribunal for the Defense of the State, and who were released from prison only after the fall of Mussolini in July 1943. (Rossi, it appears, is now in Switzerland).

Toward the end of 1929, Del Re, a native of the Venetian region, a resident of Milan, and a doctor of commercial sciences, formed close relations with some anti-Fascists in northern Italy and soon showed distinct ability in distributing clandestine publications, particularly those of the Giustizia e Liberta movement. In 1930, he managed to go to France and Belgium, where he moved in anti-Fascist circles. His movements among anti-Fascists outside of Italy were facilitated by the fact that he had a letter of recommendation from a respectable Italian, who lived in Italy, and who vouched for his good moral character etc. Among those whom Del Re saw in Brussels was Count Sforza.

Del Re's principal object was to encourage and involve anti-Fascists in "terroristic" action against the Fascist regime. Emphasis on direct action - bombs and the like, rather than on clandestine publications, was his formula. Del Re failed to achieve his principal

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object, but he was successful in causing the arrest of important anti-Fascists in Italy.

Del Re was in Italy when the arrest took place. Within a few days after the arrest, he managed to go to Switzerland and France, where he contacted a number of anti-Fascists. This time the anti-Fascists, suspecting his real role, caught him in a number of contradictions. Del Re made his way back to Italy.

His present whereabouts are uncertain. He may still be in Italy, though it is not unlikely that he settled in a country other than Italy, after the trial and conviction, in 1931, of men whose arrest he had caused.

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Galletta or Galletto, Benvenuto

See Oggioni, Francesco, with whom he seems to have been connected in "exposing" certain workers.

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Garibaldi, Ricciotti

This grandson of the famous Garibaldi operated as a Fascist spy and agent provocateur particularly in the years 1925-1926 when he tried, among other things, to instigate Italian anti-Fascists in France to assassinate Mussolini or to commit "terroristic" acts. At or about the same time, he was involved in Colonel Macia's projected insurrection in Catalonia.

Among those associated with Garibaldi were a certain Sala and Francesco Lapella or La Polla, both of whom were apparently important Italian police officials.

Ricciotti's brother, Sante Garibaldi, was also apparently in the pay of the Fascist government.

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Girone, Ugo, Professor

In the period 1929-1931, this man, who appeared to be a dissident, anti-Stalin communist, was denounced by pro-Stalin communists as an agent provocateur and as a spy of the Ovra.

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Menapace, Ermanno

A rather noterious Fascist spy and agent provocateur who operated in France and Belgium about 1929, attempting to involve anti-Fascists living outside of Italy in plots against the Fascist regime.

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Muller, Hans

In 1936, anti-Fascists in France were warned against a certain Hans Muller who said he was a former Austrian deputy and a political refugee. He appeared to be about 50 years of age. He had a document bearing the bill-head of the Italian socialist paper of Paris Il Nuovo Avanti and the apocryphal signature of the Italian socialist leader Oddino Morgari.

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Oggioni, Francesco

This man, a worker or from the working class, was regarded as a Fascist spy and agent provocateur who caused the arrest and conviction by the Fascist Special Tribunal for the Defense of the State (in June 1931) of several workers, said to be communists, for the explosion of a bomb on the occasion of the Italian King's visit to Milan in April 1928, which led to the death and injury of a number of persons.

Oggioni himself was sentenced by the Special Tribunal, apparently to cover up his real function, for he was set free almost immediately after his "conviction."

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Perez, Enrico

In 1935, anti-Fascists in France, particularly those belonging to the Aix-en-Provence branch of Lidu (Lega Italiana dei Diritti dell'Uomo, an Italian anti-Fascist organization in France) were warned against a certain Enrico Perez who, under the guise of a deserter, had "sponged" money from friends of Lidu.

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Vittorio Piumatti

In 1936, anti-Fascists in France were warned against a certain Vittorio Piumatti, who reappeared at Nice, having come from Barcellona. In 1933-4, he had been a member of Lidu (Lega Italiana dei Diritti dell' Uomo, an anti-Fascist organization in France). Later on, in 1936, he had a document of this organization.

Quaglia, Carlo (?)

Quaglia (whose first name, if we remember correctly, is Carlo) was the Fascist spy and agent provocateur responsible for the arrest and severe sentence of Tito Zaniboni and General Luigi Capello on the ground that they had planned to assassinate Mussolini in November 1925. Zaniboni's release from prison by the Badoglio government was recently announced.

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Rastelli, Giulio

In 1930, anti-Fascists represented this man as a Fascist agent who, after having been expelled from France, went to Belgium where he was frequenting Italian anti-Fascist, particularly socialist, circles.

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VECCHI, EROS

It appears that in October 1929 or 1930, the Fascist Special Tribunal for the Defense of the State convicted Eros Vecchi, by default, as he had succeeded in fleeing from Italy. At or about the same time, some communists received severe sentences from the Special Tribunal.

These occurrences led to the suspicion that he was a Fascist agent provocateur.

Vecchi turned up in France under the name of Carti and appeared to be an agent provocateur particularly in Italian communist circles outside of Italy. It appears that sometime in 1930 he was severely beaten up in France.

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Zanatta, Giuseppe

In the spring of 1936, while the Italo-Ethiopian War was going on, anti-Fascists in France were warned against Giuseppe Zanatta who was described as a Fascist agent provocateur. The photostat on this page, taken from an item in an Italian anti-Fascist publication, contains his photograph and information about him.

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Villa, Carlo

It appears that this Fascist agent provocateur was responsible for the arrest of numerous anti-Fascists in Milan and Genoa in March 1933. In 1933 he resided at 47 or 49 Via Jommelli, Milan. He was an ex-cavalry officer and ex-journalist. As a self styled bookseller, he managed to introduce himself into socialist and Catholic circles in Milan and also, it seems, in Cremona, and to circulate communist pamphlets, cultivating relations with the authors of the pamphlets.

ndon.

A. I.S.I.S. has turned out the following studies on the area involved.

*Netherlands and Belgium, August, 1942 (C.B. 4096 K).
Southern Norway, December 1941 (C.B. 4096 F).
Northern Norway and Arctic Finland, January 1941 (C.B.4096 Q)
*Norway, 1942 (C.B. 4096 S).
*France, January 1943 (C.B. 4096 J) 5 vols.

*The volumes thus marked do not appear to have Telecommunications sections, but such sections may be in preparation in England.

We have used some of the I.S.T.D. reports on French towns; in general they have lacked telecommunications information. A list of them is not available.

B. The British Geographical Handbook Series includes studies of France and Norway; a study on Denmark is in course of preparation. These are apt to be too brief to be useful for telecommunications studies.

C. At the O.S.S. London Offices, 72 Grosvenor St., W.I., is a collection of documents captured in North Africa. C.I.D. 28940 in the O.S.S. Washington office lists these materials. Files 41, 111 and 301 are among those which should be examined, but any investigator in London had better work with the complete list. Also in the O.S.S. offices is a book, L. Chrétien, Manuel d'Electricité et de Radio (Paris 1942), and presumably other relevant material.

D. The British Martian Report series, some of which are included in the list of C.I.D. accessioned materials above, should be investigated.

E. Many of the printed materials listed in the Washington section of this list should be obtainable in the British Museum and other English libraries.